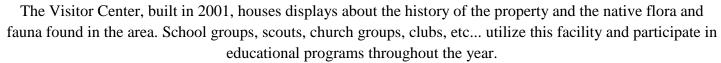


History of Beall Woods:

Located on the banks of the Wabash River in Southeastern Illinois, Beall Woods State Park attracts visitors from around the world wanting a glimpse of one of the few remaining tracts of old-growth forest found east of the Mississippi River.

The property now known as Beall Woods State Park (pronounced Bell) was under the ownership of the Beall family since the mid-1800s. While a working farm, almost half of the 635 acres consisted of forest that had been left relatively untouched by man. When Laura Beall, the last living heir, died without a will, the property went up for auction and was sold to a man who intended to cut the timber. Several individuals and organizations came together to prevent this from happening, a trial ensued and the land was purchased by the state of Illinois in 1965 by invoking the law of eminent domain against the unwilling seller. In 1966, 329 acres of old-growth forest was dedicated as the 14th Illinois Nature Preserve by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. With this action, a piece of Illinois' natural heritage was preserved so that future generations will have the opportunity to see an example of the magnificent forest that once grew along the Wabash River.











A wildlife veiwing area is located behind the Visitor Center. Observers will most frequently see chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, finches, cardinals, and hummingbirds at the feeding station, as well as, the "very healthy" squirrels. Bullfrogs are often seen sunning themselves near the pond while keeping a watchful eye for the resident black rat snake. On rarer occasions, whitetail deer, opossums, raccoons, and skunks visit the area.

